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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 11

SECURITY OF INFORMATION ON  
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

(Revised \_\_\_/\_\_\_/54; Confidential)

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 101 (b) (2) and 102 (d) (3) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the National Security Council hereby authorizes and directs that:

1. The Department and Agencies of the Government engaged in intelligence activities shall take steps to prevent unauthorized disclosure of information on United States intelligence sources and methods. Each Agency will determine its own channel for authorization to release any such information. The delimiting phrase "intelligence sources and methods" includes information ostensibly overt which requires security protection because of its specific means of procurement or specific place of procurement, revelation of which would endanger intelligence sources and methods, but the phrase does not include intelligence information as such, the dissemination of which is already covered by appropriate departmental and agency security regulations.

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2. The Director of Central Intelligence shall coordinate policies concerning the protection of intelligence sources and methods, within the limits established by Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947, except where provision has already been made by the National Security Council.

3. In protecting intelligence sources and methods, the Director of Central Intelligence and the other Intelligence Directors shall be guided by the principle that covert or sensitive information, either unevaluated or as an intelligence product, shall go only to those whose official duties require such knowledge.

4. In order to protect intelligence sources and methods further, any reference to the Central Intelligence Agency should emphasize its duties as the coordinator of intelligence, rather than its secret intelligence activities. No reference will be made to this agency whatsoever unless it is unavoidable, of course.

5. Since any publicity, factual or fictional, concerning intelligence is potentially detrimental to the effectiveness of an intelligence activity and to the national security, all departments and agencies represented by membership on the Intelligence Advisory Committee shall take steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure for written or oral publication of any information concerning intelligence or intelligence activities. In cases where the disclosure of classified

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information is sought from the Director of Central Intelligence, and he has doubt as to whether he should comply, the question will be referred to the National Security Council.

6. National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 12\* is herewith rescinded.

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\*Note: NSCID No. 12, "Avoidance of Publicity Concerning The Intelligence Agencies of the U.S. Government," was issued 6 January 1950.

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